



Michigan State University Extension

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Kathe Hale 586-469-6088

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Local Food Systems Conference shares wealth of information

The Macomb Food Systems Collaborative has created a one day conference for people who grow, produce, process, market, distribute, prepare or EAT food. A primary objective for the Food Systems Collaborative is to inform and educate residents on what the Macomb County local food system looks like. Additionally, the goal is to share how people and communities can become involved in the local food movement.

The *All About Food – from Farm to Fork Food Systems Conference* will be held at the Macomb ISD on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 beginning at 8:30 a.m. The program will kick-off with a welcome by Macomb County Executive, Mark Hackel, and the key note address will be given by Mike Hamm, C.S. Mott Professor of Sustainable Agriculture at Michigan State University. The \$15 registration fee will provide a locally procured and prepared lunch and your choice of sessions. 20 different program sessions will be offered ranging from how to start a community garden, how to purchase local food for schools, information about summer meal programs and sites, and even food demonstrations on how to enjoy rutabagas, kohlrabi and kale! The full conference brochure can be found at: MacombcountyMSUE.

The C.S. Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems at Michigan State University convened groups of people from around the state in 2009 to examine Michigan's current situation and held the Michigan Good Food Summit in 2010. They have since developed and written several reports on Michigan's food system known as the Good Food Charter which can be found at www.michiganfood.org. The C.S. Mott Group has started the dialogue and set the stage for communities to come together to review, reflect on, organize and create a better food system based on the vision of the Good Food Charter.

For more information, contact Kathe Hale at 586-469-6088, or halek@anr.msu.edu

The Macomb Food Systems Collaborative consists of these Macomb County agencies and organizations:

Michigan State University Extension, New Baltimore Farmers Market Director, School Garden Network of Macomb County, Macomb Food Program, Gleaners, Forgotten Harvest, County Board of Commissioners, United Way of Southeast Michigan, Macomb ISD, TLC Community Gardens of Mt. Clemens, MCREST, Macomb Health Department, Macomb Planning and Economic Development, Macomb Daily, Office of Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, and U.S Congressman Sander Levin.

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